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Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England · 1836

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FROM

Henry Joel Cadbury

A BRIEF ACCOUNT

OF THE

YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

FOR NEW-ENGLAND,

WITH THE

SUBORDINATE MEETINGS

OF WHICH IT IS COMPOSED.

PROVIDENCE:
MARSHALL & BROWN.
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INTRODUCTION.

In writing the following brief account of the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New-England, and of the subordinate meetings of which it is composed, we have endeavored to present as much information as possible in a limited space. Hence, the simple facts have been given, generally without comment. In the statements in relation to the Meetings—the times and places at which they are held—their population, &c., every endeavor has been made to approach as nearly as possible to accuracy. But constant changes are taking place in reference to holding the Meetings, the better to accommodate the members thereof; and the population is at some places so constantly increasing, and at others so fluctuating, that an accurate account, at any specified time, soon becomes inaccurate.

Complete returns of population have not been received; a circumstance not attributable to negligence in the compiler. And in regard to such accounts as are given, it is proper to state that some of them were received nearly or quite two years since, while others were but recently obtained. As before intimated, entire accuracy in respect to population, cannot be expected; yet these accounts approximate sufficiently near to the true number, to enable us to form a pretty correct estimate of the number of Friends in the Yearly Meeting.

It will be perceived that the notices of some of the Monthly Meetings are more elaborate than those of others. The reasons for this are obvious. While some of the Monthly Meetings were established in the early period of the existence of the Society of Friends, and have existed more than a century and a half, others have been instituted during the last twenty-five years. Besides, the amount of information, received from those Meetings which are nearly equal in age, in extent, and in other respects, differs very materially. While by some, the few queries proposed were briefly answered, from others, a minute detail of facts was received, interesting indeed—but the introduction of which, to their full extent, would be incompatible with the object of this compilation.

In its present form, although, we trust, very nearly complete, *as far as it goes*, this publication is but the mere synopsis of what it might be—a nucleus, around which, it is to be hoped that, at some future period, a large amount of facts, even now in existence and deeply interesting to every member of the Society of Friends both at home and abroad, will be gathered.

In the Yearly Meeting of Great-Britain, the subordinate meetings are required to make *annual* returns of the changes that take place within their limits; and from these returns, a list of the Meetings, the time and places of holding them, &c. &c. is published. Hence, an accurate knowledge in reference to these points may at any time be obtained. Would it not be well for the Yearly Meeting for New-England to adopt a similar practice?

A sketch of a part of New-England, in which the location of the Meetings of Friends was given, was made by a Friend who travelled through the Yearly Meeting in 1814. This was revised and corrected by another Friend, who

visited the several Meetings in 1825. Other corrections and additions were made in 1829, and yet, nothing but the location of the Meetings and the distances between some of them had been obtained.

In 1832, measures were again taken to correct this sketch, and to make still farther additions to it. Every item of both location and distance, was presented to such individuals as were presumed to be able to decide whether it was correct or incorrect. From the data thus obtained, and from maps of the territory including the meetings of this Yearly Meeting, a Map was compiled and published in 1833. After its publication, several errors in relation both to the meetings and the distances, were discovered. The former arose, chiefly, from alterations which had been recently made in the times and places of holding the meetings for discipline, and the latter, from inaccuracy in the information received. Although the fact of distance is comparatively unimportant, yet, it is desirable that *every thing* in a Map, however minute or insignificant it may be, should be as nearly correct as possible. In the present instance, however, the *estimates* of individuals must be relied upon, as the distances could not be reasonably obtained by actual measurement. Hence have arisen some errors.—Again, persons differ so much in their estimates of the same distances, that still greater doubt and perplexity is the result of obtaining the opinion of two or more. The distance between two meetings has been stated to us by different individuals, at 5, 6 and 9 miles; that between another two, at 12, 13 and 17; and between another two, at 5, 6, 8 and 10 miles!

Another difficulty was founded in an ignorance of the *precise* location of the meeting-houses. Were they all

placed in the centre of the respective towns in which th are situated, their *relative position* might have been obtain with comparative ease. But, as that is not the case, it undoubtedly true that some of the meetings are not place upon the map in their exact position with regard to eac other. But in all that is essential in a map of this charac ter, it is believed that the one which accompanies this pamphlet is *very nearly* correct. This exposition is made in order to apologize for the errors of the first edition, as well as for those which it was impossible to correct in the edition now published.

Should errors which may be amended, still exist, or should additional improvements be suggested to the mind of any individual, we hope they will be communicated to us, without any other, or more special request.

EXPLANATIONS.

The Meetings to which the letter C is annexed, are held under the care of a Committee of the Monthly Meeting.

P signifies Preparative Meeting.

The figures placed immediately against the name of each Meeting for Worship, signifies the day upon which the mid-week meeting is held at that place. Where there is no figure, there is no mid-week Meeting. The second column of figures exhibits the number of families in the respective Meetings; the third, (where there are *four*,) the number of persons belonging in families in which there are but one or two who are members of the Society of Friends; and the last, the whole population of the Meetings.

YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

FOR NEW-ENGLAND.

It appears, upon examination into the records of this Yearly Meeting, that no statement of the precise time at which it was established has been preserved;* neither has any authentic document come under observation, from which that time might be accurately ascertained.

The earliest intimation of its existence that has been noticed, is in the journal of John Burnyeat, a Minister of the Gospel, who traveled extensively in this country about the time at which this meeting was instituted. In that work, [p. 40,] there is an account of his attendance at a "Yearly Meeting held on Rhode-Island in the *fourth* month, 1671," in which he mentions it as "A general Meeting, once a year, for all Friends in New-England."

It will be recollected that, at the period in which this individual wrote, the year commenced with that which is now called the *third* month: consequently, that which he designates as the *fourth*, corresponds with the *sixth*, in the present method of computation.

In 1672, George Fox, that devoted promulgator of the doctrines of the Society of Friends, attended the annual assembly of this meeting, and inserted the following interesting description in his "Journal."

*It is supposed that the records of the Meeting, for several years after its origin, were destroyed by fire at the time of the burning of a dwelling-house in which they were deposited.

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FROM

Henry Joel Cadbury

er, that they spent two days in taking leave one of another and of the friends of the island; and then, being mightily filled with the presence and power of the Lord, they went away with joyful hearts to their several habitations in the several colonies where they lived."—[G. Fox's Journal,—edition pp. 156–7.]

Besides this meeting, it appears that several other "Yearly Meetings" were established about the same time, and very probably were the meetings "for other parts," which are referred to in the preceding extract. They were, of course, subordinate to this.* They are referred to in the following Minutes, which are interesting, not only as being the oldest existing records of the Yearly Meeting, but also, as being *all* the minutes that were made during the session of the meeting, for 1683.

"It is Agreed on and settled at A generall yearley meeting at ye house of Wm Codington in Rhoad Island, ye 11 4–m [6th] 1683.–The Yearley Generall meeting of Friends worshiping of God,—Theare assembley at Rhoad Island Begins ye second sixth daye of ye 4th [6th] month in Every yeare, til friends see cause in ye wisdome & counsell of god to alter it.

"At Duxbury, ye generall yearley meeting Begins on ye last sixth daye in Every 7th M: & since, it is altered to ye first 6th daye in Every 8th month.

"At Piscatua ye generall meeting Begins ye second first-daye after duxbury meeting.

"At Salim ye generall meeting Begins ye next first-daye After duxbury meeting.

"At dartmo^h ye generall yearley meeting is to Begin ye 4th first-daye After Duxbury meeting."

Such are the Minutes of 1683. It appears that the following Minute, although placed with those of the year above-mentioned, was recorded in 1691.

*Very few, if any, of these "Yearly Meetings," were considered as having any connection with those established for the administration of the discipline, and were probably discontinued, generally, upon the changing of the places of holding the Quarterly Meetings. This was the case within the limits of Rhode-Island Quarter.

"At Warwick A yearley meeting is appoynted ye second first-day in every 3^d mo.

The regular records of the meeting for that year, commence as follows:

"At A Generall yearley Meeting at the house of Walter Newberrys at Newporte in Rhoad Island ye 15th daye of ye 4th mo 1691.

The seuerall meetings were called ouer, vidzt,

Rhoad Island	Salim
Sandwich	Piscattua
Sittuate	Oyster Bay

no Buisiness from y^m presented."

Following this is a minute relating to an epistle received from the Yearly Meeting of London, "and Also An acc^a of ye Removeall of our Antient and Deare friend And Elder Brother George fox oute of the Bodey." With one additional minute, the records of this meeting conclude.

The meeting at "Oyster Bay," referred to in the foregoing extract, was held upon Long-Island, now within the limits of New-York Yearly Meeting.

The YEARLY MEETING is now composed of *seven* QUARTERLY MEETINGS, which, in the following pages, are arranged successively according to the order of time in which they were established. The Quarterly, are composed of *twenty-eight* MONTHLY MEETINGS, the Monthly, of *seventy-four* PREPARATIVE, and the Preparative, of *one hundred and one* MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP.

The YEARLY MEETING is held on Rhode-Island,* beginning with a meeting of Ministers and Elders, at Portsmouth, on the seventh-day succeeding the second sixth-day in the 6th month, at 9 o'clock, A. M. On the following day, [first-day] meetings for Worship are held at both Newport and Portsmouth, commencing at 10 o'clock in the morning, and 4, in the afternoon. "And the meeting for discipline begins at the 9th hour on second-day morning at Newport."

*The Yearly Meeting has always been held on Rhode-Island, excepting from the year 1777 to 1781, inclusive: during that period it was held at Smithfield.

RHODE-ISLAND QUARTERLY MEETING.

Rhode-Island Quarterly Meeting was established by the Yearly Meeting in 1699, and, at that time, comprised the Monthly Meetings of Rhode-Island, Dartmouth and Narragansett. In the early records, the last of these three is call. *Kingston*, but it is now known by the name of *Greenwich*.

This Quarterly Meeting is constituted of five Monthly Meetings, viz.: Rhode-Island, Greenwich, Swanzey, South-Kingston and Providence, which are formed by fifteen Preparative Meetings, and twenty-two Meetings for Worship. It is held on the first fifth-day in the month; at Providence in the 2d, East-Greenwich in the 5th, Portsmouth in the 8th, and Somerset in the 11th months.

RHODE-ISLAND MONTHLY MEETING.

Friends resided in the territory now comprehended by Rhode-Island Monthly Meeting, at a period nearly as early as at any other place in America. In 1667, Mary Dyer, a member of the Society, went, upon business of a pecuniary nature, from Rhode-Island to Boston, [Sewell's History, Philadelphia edition, vol. 1, p. 193,] where she was imprisoned and afterwards executed, in company with William Robinson and Marmaduke Stevenson. For a complete history of the sufferings of these individuals, see "Sewell's History," vol. 1, p. 250 and those that follow ;—also, "Book of Martyrs," p. 543, et seq.

The first records upon the books of this Meeting are dated the 12th of 10th mo. 1676 ; but, from references in subsequent minutes to Meetings formerly held, it undoubtedly was established prior to this date. It is held on the last fifth-day in each month—at Newport in the 1st, and at Portsmouth in the 2d, and thus alternately through the year. It comprises two Preparative Meetings, and four Meetings for Worship.

Newport,	P	5	51	42	255
Portsmouth,	P	4			
Jamestown,					
Tiverton,		5			

At Newport the meetings commence at half past ten o'clock from the 1st of the 5th to the 1st of the 9th month.

No mid-week meetings are held at Tiverton during those weeks in which Preparative, Monthly and Quarterly Meetings occur.

GREENWICH MONTHLY MEETING.

This Meeting, it will be perceived, was one of the three which originally constituted the Quarterly Meeting to which it belongs. It was established on the 12th of the 4th month, 1699, under the name of "Narragansett Monthly Meeting," and was held at the house of John Briggs, in Kingston. Hence it was occasionally referred to as "Kingston Monthly Meeting." It was held three months at this place, and subsequently at the house of an individual in Warwick, until the 2d of the 7th month, 1700, when it was decided that it should be removed to the "New Meeting in East-Greenwich." It was held constantly at the latter place about seven years. In the 7th month of the year 1707, the Quarterly Meeting directed that it should be thenceforward held at Providence and at Kingston, three months each, during the year. Consequently, it was held at Providence, Greenwich, Kingston and East-Greenwich alternately, until the year 1718, in the 4th month of which, Providence Monthly Meeting was set off from it, and established by the Quarterly Meeting.

In the 3d mo. 1743, this Meeting was again divided, and the new one thus formed, called "Kingston Monthly Meeting.

In the 2d mo. 1744, the Preparative Meeting of Neshanticut, now Cranston, was established, and the Monthly Meeting was thereafter held alternately at this place and at Greenwich.

Agreeably to an arrangement made two or three years since, this meeting is now held at East-Greenwich, in the 1st, 4th, 7th and 10th months; at Coventry, in the 2d, 5th, 8th and 11th months; and at Cranston, in the 3d, 6th, 9th and 12th months. It is held on the second-day before the first fifth-day in the month, and comprises four Preparative Meetings and seven Meetings for Worship.

Greenwich,	P	4		
Cranston,	P	5		
Foster,	P	5		
Plainfield,	P	5	60	190
Wickford,		5		
Coventry,		4		
Warwick,	C			

Cranston Preparative Meeting is held alternately at Cranston and Coventry, at the former place in the *even*, and the latter in the *odd* months.

The meeting at Warwick is held only on the last first-day in each month.

All the mid-week meetings are suspended during the week upon which the Monthly Meeting is held.

SWANZEY MONTHLY MEETING.

Swanzey Monthly Meeting was established on the 13th of the 8th month, 1732, and the first meeting was held on the 4th of the 10th month, in the same year.

It is now held on the last second-day in the month; at Somerset in the 1st, and at Fall River in the 2d, and thus alternately. This Meeting comprises three Meetings for Worship, each of which is a Preparative Meeting.

Swanzey, at Somerset,	5	P	95	Individuals.
Freetown,	4	P	30	"
Fall River,	4	P	171	"

Meetings at Fall River commence at half past 10 o'clock, in the morning. Those on first-day afternoon, at 3 o'clock, from the 4th to the 9th month, inclusive, and at 2, the remainder of the year.

A meeting formerly held at Taunton, was discontinued 12th mo. 26th, 1831.

SOUTH-KINGSTON MONTHLY MEETING.

This meeting was set off from Greenwich M. Meeting. and established on the 30th of the 3d mo. 1743.

It is held on the second-day preceding the last fifth-day in the month. It is composed of the following four Preparative Meetings and Meetings for Worship, which are named successively, according to the order of time in which they were established, viz.

South-Kingston,	5	P	16	53
Hopkinton,	5	P	22	94
Richmond,	5	P	9	43
Western, (S. K.)	4	P	12	48
			59	238

The Monthly Meeting is held three months at each of these places successively. At South-Kingston in the summer, at Hopkinton in the autumn, at Richmond in the winter, and at Western (S. K.) in the spring.

The mid-week meetings are suspended on the weeks in which the Monthly Meetings are held.

A small Meeting for Worship was formerly held in a school house, near Wood River, in South-Kingston. It was discontinued about two years since. Another meeting existed at Westerly, which has also been abolished.

PROVIDENCE MONTHLY MEETING.

The original meeting set off from Greenwich Monthly Meeting in the 4th mo. 1718, under the name of "Providence Monthly Meeting," became known in the course of time, as Smithfield Monthly Meeting. As it became somewhat large, and its limits extensive, it was divided in 1783, and the first session of the new meeting that was formed, was held on the 11th of the 5th month, in that year. The records of this meeting contain the following minute:

"This meeting received —— extracts of the — Quarterly Meeting Minutes, by virtue of which, said lower Preparative Meeting is set off from Smithfield Monthly Meeting, and is constituted a separate and distinct meeting, by the name of Providence Monthly Meeting."

It is held on the fourth-day before the last fifth-day in the month—alternately at Providence and Lower Smithfield; commencing the year at Providence. Two Preparative Meetings and four Meetings for Worship, are comprehended within its limits, viz.:

Providence,	P	5	32	20	158
Lower Smithfield,	P	4	14	6	68
Cumberland,		5	8	6	53
Scituate,		4	2	6	10
			56	38	289

Smithfield Preparative Meeting is held alternately at Smithfield and Cumberland.

The meetings on first-day morning, at Providence, commence at half past 10 o'clock; those in the afternoon, at half past 2, during four months of the year, and at 3, the remaining eight months.

Meetings are held regularly on first-day and fourth-day at the Yearly Meeting Boarding School. Those on first-day, commence at half past 10 o'clock, in the forenoon, and 3 o'clock, in the afternoon, through the year. Those on fourth-day are suspended during the weeks in which Monthly and Quarterly Meetings are held.

SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING.

Salem Quarterly Meeting was established on the 9th of the 8th month, 1705, containing the Monthly Meetings of Salem, Hampton and Dover. Since that time, Hampton Meeting has been divided and sub-divided, in the formation of other Monthly Meetings, and that of Dover, with some others, have been set off as a distinct Quarterly Meeting.

This Meeting now comprehends the Monthly Meetings of Salem, Seabrook and Weare, which are subdivided into ten Preparative Meetings, and eleven Meetings for Worship.

It is held on the third fifth-day in the 1st month, at Salem; on the fourth fifth-day in the 5th month, at Seabrook; on the third fifth-day of the 8th month, at Lynn; and on the third fifth-day of the 10th month, at South Weare.

SALEM MONTHLY MEETING.

A few Friends removed from England into the limits of this Monthly Meeting, during the earliest years of the existence of the Society.

Mary Fisher and Ann Austin, supposed to be the first who arrived in the territory then comprehended under the name of the Massachusetts Colony, landed at Boston, in 1656. This was about two years subsequent to the period at which it is known that Friends were residing within the precincts of Sandwich Monthly Meeting, then the "Colony of Plymouth." An account of the reception of the two individuals above mentioned, is detailed in "Sewell's History," Philadelphia edition, pp. 181, 182.

In the succeeding year (1657,) two Friends, Christopher Holder and John Copeland, went to Salem, where the former "spoke in few words in their meeting, after the priest had done." See Sewell's History, pp. 194, 195. It is supposed that some members of the Society of Friends removed to Salem, either during that year, or very soon afterwards.

The first assembly of Salem Monthly Meeting upon record, was in 1677; but it appears highly probable, that meetings had been held during a considerable time previous to this date. It is now held on the second fifth-day in the month, excepting in the 6th month, in which it assembles on the fourth-day before the second sixth-day. It is held at Salem in the 1st, 4th, 7th and 10th months, and at Lynn the remainder of the year.

The two Preparative Meetings and Meetings for Worship, which it includes, are,

Salem,	5	P	42	17	218
Lynn,	4	P	67	62	459
			109	79	677

In both Salem and Lynn, the meetings on first-day morning commence throughout the year, at 10 o'clock. afternoon meetings begin at 3 o'clock, from the 4th to the 10th month at Lynn, and from the 5th to the 10th at Salem, and at 2, the remaining portion of the year.

A meeting of Friends was established in Boston at an early period in the annals of the Society in America. The precise time at which this was commenced cannot be ascertained; but the first record that refers to it, bears the date of 10th of 2d month, 1707, when it was decided that the Monthly Meeting should be held at that place in the 3d and the 6th month. From that time forward, the Monthly Meeting continued to be held in Boston occasionally, sometimes regularly, and at others irregularly, until the year 1782. The meeting of 8th month, 8th, in that year, is the last upon record.

A Preparative Meeting, however, was continued until the 8th month of 1792, when it was concluded to attach the Friends in that city to the Preparative Meeting in Lynn.—Meetings for Worship were held regularly until 1st mo. 1799, when, agreeably to the decision of Friends, it was discontinued.

The few remaining members held meetings occasionally during several of the succeeding years, and eventually a first-day meeting, to be held under the care of a committee, was re-established. These were continued until the 1st mo. 1808, when, as part of the members had been removed by death, and others had settled in other places, it was wholly abolished. No meeting of Friends has since been regularly held in that city.

A fund, however, having accrued from the sale of the lot belonging to the Society, it was determined that another lot should be purchased and a new meeting-house erected thereon. A neat and commodious building was accordingly constructed, about five years since, and a sufficient portion of the fund to keep it in repair, still remains.

A Preparative Meeting was established at Bolton by this Monthly Meeting, in the 9th mo. 1779, which, in the 9th mo. 1785, was attached to Uxbridge Monthly Meeting.

SEABROOK MONTHLY MEETING.

This Monthly Meeting is one of the three which composed the Quarterly Meeting at the time of its establishment It was then called Hampton Monthly Meeting; but this title was exchanged on the 15th of 3d mo. 1792, for that which it now bears. The first meeting recorded, was held on the 15th of 6th mo. 1701.

In 1761, this meeting comprised the Preparative Meetings of Hampton, Amesbury and Newbury, to which that of Weare was added in 1776. The Monthly Meeting was held part of the time at the last mentioned place, from 2d mo. 1789, until it was divided, and Weare established as a separate Monthly Meeting. The Preparation Meetings at Epping and Pittsfield, were first held in 1802; that at Newbury was discontiuued in 1789.

The Meeting is now composed of four Preparative Meetings, and five Meetings for Worship. It is held on the first fifth-day in the month; at Seabrook, in the 4th, 8th and 12th; at Amesbury, in the 3d, 5th, 9th and 11th; at Epping, in the 1st and 7th; and at Pittsfield, in the 2d, 6th and 10th months.

Seabrook,	P	4	8	40
Amesbury,	P	5	17	71
Epping,	P	5	7	31
Pittsfield,	P	4	19	92
West Newbury,		4	7	31
			58	265

Amesbury Preparative Meeting is held at West Newbury in the 1st, 4th, 7th and 10th months.

At Epping there are two meetings on first-day, from the 1st of the 4th to the 1st of the 10th mo. commencing at 10 o'clock, A. M. and 2 o'clock, P. M.

A Meeting for Worship was held at Kensington during the early period of Hampton (now Seabrook) Monthly Meeting. Another, also, affixed to Amesbury Preparative Meeting, was held in Newtown. This was discontinued in

1803, and the Friends who composed it united to the Meeting in Amesbury.

WEARE MONTHLY MEETING.

The first assembly of this Meeting after the division of Seabrook Monthly Meeting, a part of which it had previously constituted, was on the 22d of the 10th month, 1795.—It is now composed of four Preparative Meetings, comprising five Meetings for Worship, viz.

Weare, North,	P	4	44	162
Weare, South,	P	5	37	161
Henniker,	P	4	22	115
Unity,	P	5	11	46
Concord,	C		8	21
			122	505

The Monthly Meeting is held on the second fifth-day in the month. At Weare North Meeting-House, in the 1st, 3d, 7th and 11th; at Weare, South, in the 2d, 4th, 8th, 10th and 12th; at Henniker, in the 5th and 6th months; and at Unity in the 9th month.

SANDWICH QUARTERLY MEETING.

Sandwich Quarterly Meeting was organized by the Yearly Meeting in the year 1706, comprehending the Monthly Meetings of Sandwich and Scituate. The latter of these is now called Pembroke.

Since the period of its establishment, the territorial limits of this Quarterly Meeting and the number of subordinate meetings comprising it, have been increased, chiefly by the addition of Monthly Meetings, set off from Rhode-Island Quarter. It now comprises the Monthly Meetings of Sandwich, Pembroke, Nantucket, Dartmouth, Westport and New-Bedford, which are composed of twelve Preparative Meetings and sixteen Meetings for Worship.

It is held on the first fifth-day in the month. At New-Bedford, in the 4th and 12th months; at Nantucket, in the 7th; and at Sandwich, in the 10th.

SANDWICH MONTHLY MEETING.

From records still in existence, it appears that Friends settled in the town of Sandwich, which is included within the limits of Sandwich Monthly Meeting, at a very early period in the history of the Society.

The earliest record, is that of a marriage, which occurred in the year 1654. Subsequently, it appears that eighteen families recorded their names in 1658. Hence, as well as from other records, it is undoubtedly true, that this Monthly Meeting was the first established in America.

The following is a copy of the minute of the first meeting upon record; and from the tenor of this, we may infer that it was the first of which records were kept.

"At a man's meeting, kept at Wm Allens house ye 25th day of ye 4th month in ye year 1672, At w^{h} meeting it is concluded and ordered y^{t} for ye future a man's meeting be kept ye the first six day of y^{e} weeke in every mo. and for Friends to come together about y^{e} eleventh hour. This was y^{e} first man's meeting y^{t} was kept by friends jn Sandwith, that is recorded."

The following is a minute bearing a later date.

"The first man's meeting held at the meeting house in Sandwich 1st day 3$^{mo.}$ 1674."

From these minutes we may conclude that no separate meeting of women was held at so early a period as the above mentioned. In the year 1676, however, the following record was made:

"At a *man* and *woman's* meeting at Wm Allen's y^{e} 3^{d} day of y^{e} 9th mo 1676, it was ordered by Friends y^{t} our womans meeting shall be on ye same daies y^{t} our man's meetings are, naimly, the first six day of ye week in every month."

This meeting now contains three Preparative Meetings and Meetings for Worship, viz.

Sandwich,	P	4	36	151
Falmouth,	P	5	38	161
Yarmouth,	P	5	19	62
			93	374

It is held on the first sixth-day in the month, excepting in the months which immediately precede the Quarterly Meeting. In those it is held on the second-day preceding the first fifth-day. It assembles at Sandwich in the 2d, 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th; at Falmouth in the 1st, 5th, 7th and 9th; and at Yarmouth in the 3d and 11th months.

During the summer there are two Meetings for Worship held on first-day at Yarmouth, commencing at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, and 2, in the afternoon.

PEMBROKE MONTHLY MEETING.

This is one of the two Monthly Meetings which composed Sandwich Quarterly Meeting at the time of its organization, and was known at that time by the name of Scituate Monthly Meeting. No authentic records are in existence by which the precise time of its origin can be ascertained. It is, however, among the oldest Monthly Meetings upon this continent, having been established between the years 1650 and 1660.

It now consists, and ever has consisted of but oné Meeting for Worship, which constitutes likewise a Preparative Meeting.

Pembroke,	P	5	15	64

It is held on the last fifth-day in the month.

NANTUCKET MONTHLY MEETING.

Nantucket Monthly Meeting was established on the 28th of the 4th mo. 1708, being at that time set off from Rhode-Island Monthly Meeting. Sudsequently to that period, it continued to belong to Rhode-Island Quarterly Meeting until the year 1781. It was at that time affixed to the Quar-

terly Meeting of which it still constitutes a portion. It now contains but one Meeting for Worship, which also forms a Preparative Meeting.

Nantucket,	P	5	200	640

The Monthly Meeting assembles on the first fifth-day in the month.

Two meetings for worship are held on first-day throughout the year. That in the forenoon commences invariably at 10 o'clock; that in the afternoon, at 2 o'clock, from the last fifth-day in the 9th month to the last fifth-day of the subsequent 3d month, and at 3, during the remainder of the year.

In the year 1792, a meeting was established, called the "North Meeting," which was constituted a Monthly Meeting in 1794, under the appellation of "Nantucket Monthly Meeting for the Northern District." Thenceforward two Monthly Meetings were continued until the 5th month, 1829. at which time they were again united.

In the following month, it was concluded to unite the Preparative Meetings; and in the 1st month, 1832, the Meetings for Worship were also combined.

It is believed that the first meeting for worship by members of the Society of Friends upon the island of Nantucket, was held in the year 1704.

In 1708, a Yearly Meeting for Worship was established, which, after having continued seventy-five years, was discontinued in the year 1783.

DARTMOUTH MONTHLY MEETING.

The first assembly of Dartmouth Monthly Meeting upon record, is that of the 26th of 4th month, 1699. It was held at that time in the dwelling-house of one of its members, but the meeting-house was probably being built, as a contribution was taken towards defraying the expenses of it, and its meetings were held in it two months afterwards. At that time, and during a series of consecutive years, this Monthly Meeting belonged to the Quarterly Meeting of Rhode-Island. It was attached to Sandwich Quarter in 1788.

It is now composed of two Preparative Meetings, (the North and the South,) which are formed by four Meetings for Worship.

Aponeganset,	P	4	39	126
Newtown,	P	5	27	70
Allen's Neck,		5	35	76
Smith's Neck,		5	14	21
			115	293

The North Preparative Meeting is held constantly at Newtown; the South, alternately at Aponeganset and Allen's Neck; at the former place in the odd, and at the latter in the even months.

The meeting at Allen's Neck constituted a separate Preparative Meeting from the year 1813 to 1829, including a part of each of those years.

The Monthly Meeting is held on the fourth fourth-day in the month, at Aponeganset.

WESTPORT MONTHLY MEETING.

This Monthly Meeting originally constituted a portion of Dartmouth Monthly Meeting, from which it was set off and established under the name of Acoaxet Monthly Meeting.

The first records are dated the 14th of 6th month, 1766. It was separated from the Quarterly Meeting of Rhode-Island, and attached to that of Sandwich, in 1688.

It now comprises two Preparative Meetings, which are formed from three Meetings for Worship, and is constantly held at Westport on the third fifth-day in each month, excepting the 6th, in which it is held on the seventh-day succeeding the last fifth-day.

Westport,	P	5	31	95
Centre,	P	4	13	53
Little-Compton,	C	5	6	13
			50	161

Friends residing at Little-Compton, belong to Acoaxet Preparative Meeting.

This Monthly Meeting was transferred from Rhode-Island to Sandwich Quarterly Meeting, in 1788.

NEW-BEDFORD MONTHLY MEETING.

Dartmouth Monthly Meeting was divided and a new meeting established at New-Bedford in 1792. Three years after, in 1795, Long Plain Preparative Meeting was set off from Sandwich Monthly Meeting and annexed to that of New-Bedford. This Meeting is now composed of two Preparative Meetings, which comprehend four Meetings for Worship.

New-Bedford,	5	P	480
Long Plain,	5	P	
Acushnet,	4		
Rochester,	4	C	

Long Plain Preparative Meeting is held at Long Plain in the 1st, and at Acushnet in the 2d month, and thus alternately through the year.

The Monthly Meeting assembles on the fourth fifth-day in the month, constantly at New-Bedford.

FALMOUTH QUARTERLY MEETING.

This Meeting was set off from Salem Quarterly Meeting in 1794, and its first assembly was on the 4th of the 12th month, in that year. It included at that time, the Monthly Meetings of Falmouth and Durham alone, but, subsequently, that of Windham was added, and it now consists of these three. Nine Preparative Meetings and eleven Meetings for Worship are included in its limits. It is held on the fifth-day preceding the first sixth-day in the month; at Falmouth in the 6th month, at Windham in the 2d and 9th, and at Durham in the 11th.

FALMOUTH MONTHLY MEETING.

This Meeting was established in 1761, and was held at that time alternately at Falmouth and North Yarmouth.—

It now contains three Meetings for Worship and two Preparative Meetings.

Falmouth,	P	4	28	97
Portland,	P	5	17	58
Cape Elizabeth,		4	5	9
			50	164

The Monthly Meeting is held on the fourth fifth-day in the month; at Portland in the 1st, 3d, 5th, 7th, 9th and 11th, and at Falmouth the remaining months of the year.

At Portland two Meetings for Worship are held on first-day throughout the year. That in the morning commences at half past 10 o'clock, and that in the afternoon at 3 o'clock from the 4th to the 9th month inclusive, and at 2, the remainder of the year.

A meeting was formerly held at Scarborough, within the limits of this Monthly Meeting, but as the number of members eventually became very small, it was discontinued, and the Friends who belonged to it affixed to the meeting at Portland.

DURHAM MONTHLY MEETING

Was established on the 24th of 12th month, 1790. It now consists of two Preparative Meetings and three Meetings for Worship. It is held constantly at Durham on the third-day after the third fifth-day in the month.

Durham,	P	5	46	11	258
Lewiston,	P	4	8	3	35
Pownal,	C	4	5		30
			59		323

A meeting was held at Bath, previously to 1791, but inasmuch as the number of members had at that period become much reduced, it was discontinued on the 26th of the 8th month.

WINDHAM MONTHLY MEETING.

This meeting was instituted in the 1st month, 1803. It originally comprehended but two Preparative Meetings,

Windham and Limington, but afterwards three others were added. One of them has since been discontinued, leaving but four, each of which is composed of but one Meeting for Worship.

Windham,	P	5	35	223
Limington,	P	5	11	54
Parsonsfield,	P	4	11	68
Raymond,	P	4	13	81
Gorham,		4	4	31
			74	457

The Monthly Meeting is held on the seventh-day after the fourth fifth-day in the 1st, 5th, 8th and 10th months, and on the sixth-day succeeding the fourth fifth-day in the 3d, 4th, 7th and 12th months, at Windham; and on the sixth-day after the fourth fifth-day in the 2d, 6th, 9th and 11th months, at Limington.

A meeting, under the care of a committee, was formerly held at Poland, but in consequence of the small number of members, it was abolished in 1822.

SMITHFIELD QUARTERLY MEETING.

In 1801, Rhode-Island Quarterly Meeting was divided and a new Quarterly Meeting established, taking, from its locality, the name which is given above. Its first assembly was at Smithfield, on the 12th of the 11th month, in the year aforesaid.

It now includes four Monthly Meetings, Smithfield, Uxbridge, Richmond and Bolton, these comprehending ten Preparative Meetings and twelve Meetings for Worship. It is held on the second fifth-day in the month; at Smithfield in the 2d, at Northbridge in the 5th and 11th, and at Bolton in the 8th.

SMITHFIELD MONTHLY MEETING.

This Meeting being set off from Greenwich, was instituted in 1718, and its first meeting held on the 9th of the 5th

month, in that year. It was at that time called "Providence Monthly Meeting," but in the 3d month, 1731, immediately after the incorporation of the town of Smithfield, which occurred in the year 1730, the minutes say, "At our Monthly Meeting held at Smithfield," &c. It was subsequently subdivided, at which time it received the name which it now bears, both on account of its locality and in contra-distinction to the other meeting which was formed from it.

It belonged to Rhode-Island Quarterly Meeting until that was divided in 1801. It now includes four Preparative Meetings constituted by five Meetings for Worship, and is held on the last fifth-day in the month, *constantly* at Smithfield.

Smithfield,	P	5	53	182
Burrillville,	P	4	14	44
Mendon, S.	P	4	10	55
Mendon, N.	C	5	11	24
Mansfield,	P	5	19	62
			107	367

In ascertaining the population, all those were reckoned as "families" in which one of the parents is a member of the Society of Friends.

The following is an extract from a letter received from the clerk of this Monthly Meeting. It is inserted with the view of furnishing a useful hint to the members of meetings in other sections of the Yearly Meeting.

"Our Monthly Meeting in 1831, appointed a committee, selected from each Preparative Meeting, to procure an exact list of the members in each meeting. The lists thus returned were entered, alphabetically arranged, in a book prepared for that purpose, which is from time to time examined by the clerk, and corrected by such additions and deductions as the case requires." He adds furthermore—"We have found it of much use, and particularly so by the Overseers, as a book of reference in regard to membership, &c. &c."

UXBRIDGE MONTHLY MEETING.

Uxbridge Monthly Meeting was established at the time of the division of Smithfield Monthly Meeting, 11th of the 7th mo. 1783, and the first meeting assembled on the first of 8th month in that year. It is now composed of four Preparative Meetings and an equal number of Meetings for Worship.

Uxbridge,	P	4	38	
Leicester,	P	4	21	
Northbridge,	P	5	21	
Pomfret,	P	4	7	35
			87	

It is held on the sixth-day following the last fifth-day in the month; at Northbridge in the 1st, 2d, 4th, 7th and 10th; at Uxbridge in the 3d, 6th, 9th and 12th, and at Leicester in the 5th, 8th and 11th months.

A Meeting for Worship and a Preparative Meeting were formerly held in Douglas, but the number of Friends having become very much reduced, the latter was discontinued on the 1st of 10th mo. 1830, and the former on the 30th of 8th mo. 1833. The Friends that constituted that meeting now belong to Uxbridge Preparative Meeting.

A Meeting for Worship was also held at Thompson, Con. but as there were but very few members it has been discontinued, and the Friends belonging to it attached to Uxbridge Preparative Meeting.

RICHMOND MONTHLY MEETING.

This meeting was organized in 1792. It is composed of one Preparative Meeting and two Meetings for Worship, viz.:

Richmond,	P	5	10	45
Pelham,				10
				55

The Friends of Pelham formerly constituted a distinct Preparative Meeting. This, however, was discontinued, excepting previous to the Monthly Meeting which next preceded the Quarterly Meetings, in 1819, and was wholly abolished in 1821.

The Monthly Meeting is held on the fifth-day preceding the last fifth-day in the month, constantly at Richmond.

BOLTON MONTHLY MEETING.

It has been previously stated that a Preparative Meeting was established at Bolton by Salem Monthly Meeting in 1779, and that subsequently, in 1785, it was attached to Uxbridge Monthly Meeting. In 1799 it was disconnected from the meeting to which it had been affixed, and organized as a distinct Monthly Meeting.

This meeting is now held on fourth-day preceding the last fifth-day in the month. It comprises but one Preparative Meeting.

Bolton,	P	5	35	219

VASSALBOROUGH QUARTERLY MEETING.

Subsequently to the institution of Falmouth Quarterly Meeting, in 1794, the number of Friends within its limits increased with considerable rapidity, and the territory which they inhabited became very extensive. Hence it was at length considered expedient that a division of this meeting should be made and a new one established. Agreeably to a proposition to this effect, the Yearly Meeting, in the 6th month, 1813, authorized a separation and the organization of a new meeting, bearing the name of Vassalborough Quarterly Meeting. The first assembly of this meeting was on the 11th of 11th mo. 1813.

It is now held on the fifth-day previous to the second sixth-day in the 2d, 9th and 11th months, and on the fifth-day before the last sixth-day in the 5th month, constantly at Vassalborough. It comprises four Monthly Meetings,

eleven Preparative Meetings, and sixteen Meetings for Worship.

VASSALBOROUGH MONTHLY MEETING.

Not having received returns from Vassalborough Monthly Meeting, the following is all the information in our possession in reference to it.

It is held on the fourth-day before the third fifth-day in the month; at Outlet in the 1st month, and at Vassalborough in the 2d, and thus alternately.

Vassalborough,	4	P
Outlet,	5	P

A meeting, formerly held at Bristol, was discontinued in the 11th month, 1826.

SIDNEY MONTHLY MEETING.

This meeting was formerly a part of Vassalborough Monthly Meeting, but was organized as a separate Monthly Meeting in the 10th month, 1802. It is now composed of two Preparative Meetings and three Meetings for Worship, viz.

Sidney,	P	5	22	102
Fairfield,	P	5	35	147
Belgrade,		4	5	25
			62	274

The meeting assembles on the third fifth-day in the month; at Sidney in the *odd*, and at Fairfield in the *even* months.

A Meeting for Worship was held during several years at Athens, but the number of Friends composing it having become very much reduced, it was finally discontinued in the 2d month, 1832. This and the meeting at St. Albans, were the two most northerly meetings included within the limits of New-England Yearly Meeting.

CHINA MONTHLY MEETING.

This Meeting was detached from that of Vassalborough and organized in the 9th month, 1813, under the name of Harlem Monthly Meeting. The name has since been changed to that by which it is now recognized. It is constituted by four Preparative Meetings, which comprise seven Meetings for Worship, viz.

China,	P		46	244
Albion,	P		20	87
Unity,	P		9	40
Hope,	C	(Albion, P.)	4	23
China, South,		(China, P.)	7	41
Brooks,	P		12	66
Neck,	C	(China, P.)	6	23
			104	540

The Monthly Meeting is held on the third-day succeeding the second fifth-day in the month; at China in the 1st, 3d, 5th, 7th, 9th and 11th; at Albion in the 2d, 4th, 8th and 12th; and at Unity in the 6th and 10th months.

A Meeting for Worship, known by the name of "Branch," was established in the year 1817, which, after having continued ten years, was abolished in 1827. It was held in China.

LEEDS MONTHLY MEETING.

In the 2d mo. 1813, a new Meeting bearing this name, was established. At that time it belonged to Falmouth Quarterly Meeting, but at the time of the institution of Vassalborough Quarter, it was comprehended within the limits of the latter. It includes at the present time, four Preparative Meetings, each of which is formed of but one Meeting for Worship.

Leeds,	P	5	12	61
Litchfield,	P	5	25	112
Wilton,	P	5	10	34
Winthrop,	P	4	8	35
			55	242

Wilton Preparative Meeting is held on the seventh day of the week.

Various changes have taken place in reference to the places of holding the Monthly Meeting. It is now held on the sixth-day subsequent to the third fifth-day in the month; at Leeds in the 6th and 10th months; at Litchfield in the 1st, 3d, 5th, 7th, 9th and 11th; and at Winthrop in the 2d, 4th, 8th and 12th.

DOVER QUARTERLY MEETING.

This Quarterly Meeting was organized in 1815, being constituted by Meetings, which previously to that time belonged to Salem Quarterly Meeting. It comprises the Monthly Meetings of Dover, North Berwick and Sandwich, which are composed of seven Preparative Meetings, and twelve Meetings for Worship.

It is held on the fourth fifth-day in the month; at Sandwich in the 10th month, at Dover in the 4th, at Berwick in the 8th, and at Meadersborough in the 1st.

DOVER MONTHLY MEETING.

The records of this Meeting extend as far back as the year 1702, and nothing indicates that the meeting was established at an earlier period. It was one of the three Monthly Meetings which constituted Salem Quarterly Meeting at the time the latter was established, in 1705.

It now includes three Preparative Meetings composed by six Meetings for Worship, viz.

Dover,	P	4	42	168
Rochester (*lower meeting*)		5	10	31
Lee,	C	none	4	18

Meadersborough,	P	5	25	96
New-Durham,		4	11	52
Gilmanton,	P	5 Estimated	10	

It is held on the fourth-day before the fourth fifth-day in the month, excepting in the 1st, 4th, 8th and 10th months, in which it is held on the fourth-day previous to the third fifth-day.

It assembles at Dover in the 2d, 4th, 6th, 7th, 10th and 12th months, at Rochester upper meeting-house, (Meadersborough,) in the 1st, 3d, 8th and 11th, at Gilmanton in the 5th, and 9th.

NORTH BERWICK MONTHLY MEETING.

This meeting was established in the 7th mo. 1802, precisely a century subsequent to the first records of the Monthly Meeting for Dover. It is held constantly at Berwick on the third fifth-day in the 1st, 4th, 8th and 10th months, and on the fourth fifth-day in the remaining months in the year.

It includes but one Preparative Meeting, which is formed by three Meetings for Worship.

North Berwick,	P	5	44	5	227
Elliot, (formerly Kittery)		5	14	3	75
Oak Woods		4	2	2	17
			60	10	319

A Preparative Meeting was formerly held at Elliot, but was discontinued previously to the organization of Berwick (now North Berwick) Monthly Meeting.

The meeting at Elliot was, undoubtedly, the first that was established in the territory which now forms the state of Maine. It commenced in 1730, and in 1764 the Preparative Meeting referred to above, was established.

The meeting at Berwick, (now N. Berwick,) was commenced in 1750, and that of Oak Woods, which is situated in the north part of N. Berwick, in 1802. The latter was under the care of a committee until 1834.

SANDWICH MONTHLY MEETING.

Was first held in the 10th mo. 1802. It contains three Preparative Meetings, each constituted by but one Meeting for Worship.

Sandwich, South,	P	5	30	163
Sandwich, North,	P	4	12	62
Wolfsborough,	P	4	10	60
			52	285

The Monthly Meeting is held on the third fifth-day in the month; at Sandwich, North, in the 2d and 9th, and at Sandwich, South, in the remaining months.

A Meeting for Worship was held under the care of a committee in the easterly part of Sandwich, from the 9th month, 1821, to the 6th month, 1827.

TABLE OF MEETINGS, POPULATION, &c.

Q. Meetings.	M. Meetings.	P. Mgs.	Worship.	Fam.	Individ.
Rhode-Island.	Rhode-Island,	2	4	51	255
	Greenwich,	4	7	60	198
	Swanzey,	3	3		296
	South-Kingston,	4	4	59	233
	Providence,	2	4	56	289
Salem.	Salem,	2	2	109	677
	Seabrook,	4	5	58	265
	Weare,	4	5	122	505
Sandwich	Sandwich,	3	3	93	374
	Pembroke,	1	1	15	64
	Nantucket,	1	1	200	640
	Dartmouth,	2	4	115	293
	Westport,	2	3	50	161
	New-Bedford,	2	4		489

Falmouth.	Falmouth,	2	3	50	164
	Durham,	2	3	59	323
	Windham,	4	45	74	457
Smithfield	Smithfield,	4	5	107	367
	Uxbridge,	4	4	87	No returns
	Richmond,	1	2		55
	Bolton,	1	1	35	219
Vassal-borough.	Vassalborough,	2	2	No returns	
	Sidney	2	3	62	274
	China,	4	7	104	540
	Leeds,	4	4	55	242
Dover.	Dover,	3	6	Incomplete returns	
	North Berwick,	1	3	60	319
	Sandwich,	3	3	52	285

POPULATION.

		From 4 to 21 yrs of age
Rhode-Island Quarter,	1268	388
Salem "	1447	576
Sandwich, "	2012	479
Falmouth, "	944	347
Smithfield, "	641	366
Estimated addition for Uxbridge Monthly Meeting,	300	
Vassalborough Quarter,	1056	631
Estimated addition for Vassal-borough Monthly Meeting,	500	
Dover Quarter,	604	368
Estimated addition for Dover Monthly Meeting,	400	
Total,	9172	3155

In 1834, the important subject of education was introduced into the Yearly Meeting, and a number of queries were put to the subordinate Meetings, with a request that they should be answered the ensuing year. From the answers received in 1835, a Digest was prepared and published, from which, the following, together with the last table on the 35th page, are extracted.

Belonging to the Yearly Meeting, there are—

Males, under 14,	940	Females, under 14,	849
at School,	899	at School,	805
not at School,	41	not at School,	35
at district or mixed Schools,	843	at district or mixed Schools,	727
Males, over 14,	702	Females, over 14,	673
at School,	569	at School,	492
not at School,	133	not at School,	181
at district or mixed Schools,	505	at district or mixed Schools,	457

Whole number of Children reported—Males,	1642	At district or mixed Schools,	2530*
Females,	1513	Attended Friends' Schools, exclusively,	235
	3155	Whole number actually at School within the year,	2765
Number of Friends' Schools:		Not at School,	390†
Preparative Meeting,	3		
Monthly Meeting,	1		
Family,	27		3155

It is stated in the return from Salem Quarter, that care has been taken in the selection of books for Schools under the care of Friends; although it is found difficult to procure books in some of the branches that are consistent, in every respect, with our views. The answer from Smithfield Quarter states, that in one Monthly Meeting the books used by the schools were selected by a Committee appointed by the Monthly Meeting.

Falmouth Quarterly Meeting informs, that eight teachers of mixed Schools, viz. three males and five females, are members of our Society. A note attached to the return from Smithfield Quarter informs, that twelve members of Society, viz. two males and ten females, have been employed in district schools within the past year, and that, at these schools, many of the children attended, which have been included in their return as having attended district or mixed schools. A similar note from Salem Quarterly Meeting informs, that Lynn Preparative Meeting School, which was kept nine months, was suspended the other three months for the want of a teacher.

*Some of which attended Friends' Schools part of the time.
†Of these, 133 are males, 181 females, over 14 years of age.

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